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SOURCE La Gaceta del Norte.INCREASED SPANISH CIVIL AIR TRAFFIC AND AIRPORTS

Gen Gonzalez Gallarza, Spanish Minister of Air, provided the following data on 1952 Spanish air traffic to newspapermen:

In 1952, Spanish airports handled 56,000 aircraft, which transported 1,100,000 passengers, 1,500,000 kilograms of mail, and 18 million kilograms of cargo.

The minister stated that the construction of airports to meet increased civil air traffic in every corner of the globe is an urgent national and international problem. He said that Spain is attempting to do her share because of her privileged position as an air platform in support of airlines joining Europe and Africa as well as the American continents with Asia via the Mediterranean.

The figures for arrivals and departures on the 26 Spanish airports represent an increase of 450 percent over 1940 for aircraft movements; 1,000 percent for passengers, 200 percent for mail, and 600 percent for cargo. The Minister estimated that by 1960 Spanish air traffic will reach the following volume, even if the present facilities do not expand: 250,000 arrivals and departures, with 10 million passengers, 3 million kilograms of mail, and 100 million kilograms of cargo, including domestic and international traffic. He added that inasmuch as many new airports are under construction, these figures should be exceeded.

The minister mentioned the effort made to establish airways marked by radio-electric and optical aids to navigation.

The network of Spanish airports, according to General Gallarza, will be expanded to serve the greatest number of cities. To do this, he said, help will be needed from regional, provincial, and municipal organizations, as well as from private capital.

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In answer to questions by the newspapermen, the minister said that an airport will be constructed at Vigo for use in September. A runway will be constructed at La Toja. This runway will be approached from seaward to avoid the clouds and fog prevalent in this area. In the Asturias region, an airport is under construction at Llanera, and it will be supplemented by another airport at Santiago de Compostela.

The minister referred to his one-month visit to the US, expressing his admiration and stating that the US effort "has not been appreciated in full by the great majority of nations."

General Gonzalez ended his press conference by saying that the Santander airport is under construction and that an airfield is planned at Fuenterrabia.

Based on the figures for passengers entered, Spanish airports are rated in the following order: Madrid, Barcelona, Palma de Mallorca, Sevilla, Las Palmas, Bilbao, Tenerife (Canary Islands), Valencia, Tetuan (Morocco), Melilla, Malaga, Zaragoza, and Mahon (Menorca Island). It is to be noted that Bilbao stands sixth in Spanish air traffic.

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